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CANADA AND THE MODERNIZATION OF ASIA
A PILOT STUDY OF CANADIANS INVOLVED IN ASIA ON TRADE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

September 1998

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A Pilot Study of Canadians Involved in Asia on Trade and Human Rights

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Background & Rationale

The importance of Asia on the world stage is summed up by John Naisbitt, writing in Megatrends Asia: "What is happening in Asia is by far the most important development in the world. Nothing else comes close, not only for Asians but for the entire planet. The modernization of Asia will forever reshape the world as we move towards the next millennium".

One assumption of this study is that the process of modernization includes the development and strengthening of democratic practices and institutions. In recent years we have seen the struggle for democracy, in the streets as well as the ballot box, carried on throughout Asia. Student action led to the ousting of Thailand's military strongmen in 1973 and again in 1992. The dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos was overthrown by the nonviolent action of students, workers, priests and nuns in the Philippines.

In South Korea, after many years of rule by ex-generals and their business supporters, the people have elected Kim Dae-jung, a man who believes in and tries to practise democracy in his country. "Asia should lose no time", he said, "in firmly establishing democracy and strengthening human rights".

Perhaps the most surprising change, however, has been the removal of Indonesia's long-reigning dictator, Suharto, and the unexpected public clamour in that populous country for opening the doors to free expression, democratic elections and a just system of law - doors which have been shut since the 1965 coup d'etat. Megawati Sukarnoputri, former leader of the Indonesian Democratic Party, stated that "Indonesia should be a country based on the rule of law, not might. Democracy, human rights and living standards, these will be central to the twenty-first century".

The struggle for democracy continues in Indonesia and other Asian countries, notably Burma, China, Vietnam and North Korea. It embraces not only the weakening of authoritarian regimes, but the strengthening of human rights and civil society in all its forms, the protection of minorities and the struggle for more equitable development.

Canada, too, is a Pacific Rim country and its business leaders, diplomats, academics, development and religious leaders visit and live in Asian countries. More than one thousand Canadians participated in the Team Canada tours of Asian countries, led by

Prime Minister Chrétien in 1996 and 1997. In turn, tens of thousands of Asians - from China, southeast Asia, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka - immigrate to Canada and influence its world outlook.

According to the Department of Foreign Affairs & International Trade, the visits of Team Canada were designed to expand Canada's economic partnerships, and "to increase participation in Asia Pacific markets by Canadian businesses".

A secondary objective, the Department stated, was "to enhance cross cultural understanding of common concerns". Recently, Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy stated: "One of the newest areas of focus in our cooperation with Asian partners is on human security issues... with problems ranging from environmental degradation to illegal drugs, and from child labour to a global ban on land mines".

It is with this background that a pilot study of Canadians with Asian experience was conceived and carried out by Peacefund Canada.

2. Purpose, Assumptions & Methods

The study's overall purpose was to contribute to a better understanding of how Canadians might encourage democratic governance and the strengthening of human rights in Asia.

For this purpose, the study selected two groups of Canadians:

a) business representatives who accompanied Prime Minister Chrétien on "Team Canada" tours of Asian countries in 1996-1997;

b) non-business representatives, including those from Canadian NGOs who work in Asian countries, government, law and educational institutions, some of whom participated in Team Canada Missions.

It was assumed:

a) that the process of modernization includes the strengthening of democratic practices and institutions;

b) that Canadians' knowledge of, and attitudes towards Asians with whom they work or trade contribute to our understanding or misunderstanding of human security issues in Asia;

c) that Canadian business men and women tend to have different priorities than non-business representatives involved in development activities. The former put greater emphasis on the commercial benefits of trade, the latter on human rights and social development.

The principal method of the study was a twelve-question survey (Annex A) which was mailed to 812 Canadians.

II RESULTS & COMMENTARY

1. Survey Population and Respondent Sample

The survey population of 812 to whom the questionnaire was mailed consisted of 741 persons representing business organizations and 71 representatives of non-business organizations. The distribution of the survey population and the respondent sample is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Survey population and respondent sample.

	Business		Non-business		Total	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
Survey population	741	91.3	71	8.7	812	100.0
Respondent sample	44	51.2	42	48.8	86*	100.0
Participated in a "Team Canada" mission	42	72.4	16	27.6	58	100.0

* In addition to the 86 respondents shown in this table, there were 4 respondents who returned questionnaires with little usable data.

The original response from the questionnaire mailings was expectedly low. Many of those who had not responded were phoned and reminded of the survey, some more than once. The response rate was 10.6%, and non-business representatives were more likely to respond (59.2%) than business representatives (5.9%). Furthermore, business respondents were more likely to have participated in a Team Canada mission (95.5%) than non-business respondents (38.1%).

The disappointing overall response rate, and the under-representation of business representatives amongst respondents, is consistent with other reports that companies doing business in Asian countries either have no positions on observing human rights or environmental protection with respect to their Asian business activities, or are reluctant to declare them. It also suggests that those companies that did respond were not representative of the total group of companies surveyed.

Given the small size and non-random character of the respondent sample, any generalizations from the survey data to the study population would be unwarranted. Consequently, the sections that follow simply describe the characteristics of the respondent sample itself. The statistical analysis compares the responses of the business respondents with the non-business respondents. Insofar as the differences between the two sub-samples reflect actual differences between these constituencies, they indicate substantial differences in opinions and assumptions on some issues, and considerable agreement or consensus on others. The differences that are statistically significant at $p<.1$, applying the difference of proportions test, are indicated by asterisks.

2. Visits and involvement

The distribution of respondents' visits and current or prospective involvement in business or organizational activities in southeast Asian countries is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Visits and/or current or prospective activities by country.

Country	Visited	Relationship	Visit and relationship	Total
Philippines	19	17	15	51
South Korea	10	9	24	43
Malaysia	7	15	16	38
Indonesia	5	17	18	40
India	4	20	7	31
China	7	19	11	37
Singapore	4	9	7	20
Pakistan	2	8	6	16
Thailand	4	2	4	10

For the remaining 11 countries or territories (Hong Kong, Taiwan, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Burma, Sri Lanka, Japan, East Timor, Nepal, North Korea, and Bangladesh) the totals ranged from 8 to 2 and averaged 4.4.

Among the respondents, substantial involvement was confined to only a few of the 20 countries or territories with which there was contact.

3. Satisfaction with Team Canada missions

The questions pertaining to satisfaction were directed to those who had actually participated in the missions; they were not applicable to respondents who had not. Since over 90 percent of the 28 who did not participate in the missions were representatives of non-business organizations, the findings on satisfaction are heavily weighted with business respondents.

The level of satisfaction with all six aspects of the mission on which Team Canada participants were asked to report was high. The results are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Business and non-business respondents who were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with Team Canada missions

Aspects of visit	Business		Non-business	
	f	%	f	%
Degree of financial success obtained, involving contracts agreed to or promised	30	91	7	78
New knowledge gained about business methods, technologies, and relevant markets	29	88	10	100
New knowledge, insights concerning economic conditions of the host countries, such as jobs, housing, education and health	27	82	10	91
New understanding of the social and political conditions in the host countries, such as the legal system, democratic institutions or their lack of freedom of speech or otherwise	23	77	11	100*
New personal friendships made with persons in host countries	29	88	11	85
Development of a network in Canada with others who participated in the Team Canada mission	27	77	10	83

*Difference in satisfaction - $p<.08$

The results indicate that there was a substantially higher level of satisfaction among non-business respondents with understanding gained of social and political conditions in the host countries. Perhaps this difference is due to social and political conditions of a country being perceived as more relevant to the purposes of the non-business organizations than to their business counterparts. In all other respects, the levels of satisfaction for business and non-business representatives were substantially the same.

4. Benefits and limitations of Canadian-Asian trade

Survey participants were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with a number of statements about how Canadian trade should be conducted with Asian countries. The results from the respondent sample are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Benefits and limitations of Canadian-Asian trade as seen by business and non-business respondents

Statement	Agree or agree somewhat			
	Business		Non-business	
	f	%	f	%
Canada should trade with all countries, regardless of the social and political conditions in those countries	23	58	10	25**
The more democratic the political institutions of a country, the more likely the poorest will share the benefits from trade	30	73	26	65
Canada should not trade with countries whose records on human rights have been censured by the United Nations	22	55	23	58
In the long run, trade strengthens both the economies and the levels of human rights in Asian countries	39	95	21	54**
Prior to establishing trade relations, Canada should first request that the country of one's trading partner endorse and abide by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights	15	38	28	72*
Canada should not support economic sanctions against countries who repress the rights of their citizens	11	28	8	21

* $p < .001$
** $p < .01$

The strongest differences between the views of business and non-business respondents were revealed in their responses to the questions concerning the use of trade as a mechanism for dealing with problems of human rights violations, inadequate distribution of the economic benefits, and undemocratic institutions. Business respondents were less supportive of this strategy than non-business respondents.

Again, the difference in responses may be due to a difference in the goals and objectives of non-business organizations and business, with non-business organizations focussing their work on eradicating injustices within Asian countries.

5. Codes of conduct

Eight (26%) business organizations reported that they have, or are developing, codes of conduct in connection with their overseas activities, and 23 (74%) reported in the negative. Of the non-business respondents, seven (50%) reported that they have developed, or are in the process of developing, codes of conduct for their organizations, six (43%) indicated that they were not and one (2%) did not know. The responses to questions about components of codes of conduct are shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Components of codes of conduct of organizations reporting existing or developing codes

	Business		Non-business	
	f	%	f	%
Freedom of association	5	71	3	50
Right to bargain collectively	2	29	3	50
Seek to prohibit forced or indentured labour	4	57	3	43
Seek to eliminate child labour	5	71	3	50

The number of respondents to these questions was too small to speculate about the content of codes of conduct or of differences between the codes of business and non-business organizations.

6. Security and stability

After noting that there are various threats to the security and stability of Asian people from numerous border disputes, authoritarian regimes, a flourishing trade in illegal drugs, and a massive arms buildup, participants were asked what steps, if any, Canada should take to improve the security and stability of Asia. Their responses to the five proposed alternatives are shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Responses of business and non-business representatives to proposed Canadian interventions to support Asian security and stability

Proposed intervention	Agree with proposed intervention: Business f	Business %	Non-business f	Non-business %
None; the security of Asians should be left entirely to themselves	6	14	1	2*
Urge the ASEAN Regional Forum to emphasize non-military means to strengthen human security, such as mechanisms for peacebuilding, conflict reduction and resolution	35	83	34	87
Decrease Canadian military exports to the region, and urge decreased levels of military spending by all countries in Asia	11	26	29	73**
Maintain trade with all countries regardless of internal security conditions	8	19	4	10
Strengthen United Nations initiatives to control the production and distribution of heroin from Burma, etc.	22	52	27	68

* $p < .06$

** $p < .001$

Few respondents (business and non-business) favour maintaining trade regardless of internal security conditions, but significantly more business representatives endorsed non-intervention, and significantly fewer supported constraints on military exports. Interventions that involved persuasion and negotiation were supported by the majority of both business and non-business representatives.

7. Environmental protection

Participants were first asked if trade restrictions based upon environmental concerns were ever justified. The results are shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Responses of business and non-business representatives to the question "Are trade restrictions based on environmental concerns justified?"

Restrictions justified	Business f	Business %	Non-business f	Non-business %
Always justified	5	12	14	38*
Sometimes justified	30	70	23	62
Never justified	7	16	0	0*

*p<.01

About one-half of the respondents of both groups indicated that trade restrictions based upon a country's failure to protect the environment were sometimes justified. A significantly higher percentage of non-business respondents considered such action always justified and a significantly higher percentage of business respondents considered trade restrictions never justified.

Many explanations were given by respondents for their position on encouraging environmental protection through trade restrictions. Five reasons involved 10 percent or more of the respondents and these are shown in Table 8.

Table 8: Reasons given by business and non-business respondents for position on applying trade restrictions to improve environmental protection

Reasons for position	Business f	Business %	Non-business f	Non-business %
For the sake of the planet. All nations must become environmentally responsible	10	40	12	48
Trade restrictions are counter productive; they do not work	6	24	1	4*
Unfair to impose economic hardship through restrictions if we can't provide technical solutions to solve their environmental problems	1	4	4	16
Restriction decisions must be made on a case-by-case basis	4	16	3	12
Brings environmental protection on to the country's political agenda	1	4	5	20**

* $p < .07$
** $p < .06$

Significantly more business respondents considered trade restrictions to be impractical or counter-productive; significantly more non-business respondents believed that such

restrictions would serve to raise the political profile of environment issues in the host country.

Participants were then asked if, prior to implementing a joint project in Asia, their organization would seek an environmental impact assessment of the project if it were not required by the host government. While this question was actually directed to business participants, 45 percent of the non-business respondents answered the question.

Of the business respondents, 30 percent reported that they would undertake such an assessment and 19 percent would not. Sixteen percent did not know if they would do so and 33 percent said that such action would not be applicable to their situation. The reasons given for doing an assessment were: 1) to be consistent with Canada's commitment to environmental protection; 2) the value of such assessments to the home country; and 3) conducting assessments to avoid local opposition to projects. Those who said that they would not conduct an environmental impact assessment or were doubtful about doing so, said that their products or services were environmentally friendly or unrelated to environmental issues, or that economic feasibility would be an obstacle.

Of the non-business respondents, 34 percent said that they would conduct an impact assessment voluntarily under these circumstances, and only five percent would not. Thirty-nine percent considered the question inapplicable, and 18 percent did not answer, perhaps because they too did not see the issue as relevant to their situation.

8. Values and the modernization of Asia

"There is an important debate in Asia today on whether political rights - including personal freedoms, rights of fair trial, freedom of speech and assembly - should be curtailed in the interests of economic growth." This statement was presented in the questionnaire, and study participants were asked which of three positions on this debate they favoured. Their choices are indicated in Table 9.

Table 9: Position on values debate favoured by business and non-business respondents

Positions on values debate	Business		Non-business	
	f	%	f	%
Primacy of economic growth and respect for hierarchy	4	10	0	0*
Primacy of democratic practice and human rights	9	23	15	40
Both economic growth and human rights are equally essential for Asia today	27	68	23	61

* $p < .05$

About two-thirds of the respondents in both groups favour a position that accords equal importance to human rights and economic progress in the modernization of Asia, but business respondents are more likely to consider economic growth as paramount.

9. A Special Canadian legacy to Asia?

The tenth question asked: *What should be the special Canadian legacy to Asia that distinguishes Canada from other non-Asian industrial countries?*

The majority of responses to this open-ended question reflect a "legacy" of concern for the people of Asia: that we should not take economic advantage of them, but rather be concerned with their needs as much as our own. Examples follow:

- "We should use the fact that Canada is a Pacific nation as an opportunity towards Asia, particularly through Asian ethnic communities in Canada."
- Our relations with Asia should at all times be ethical, "with honesty, integrity, fairness, willingness to adapt to individual country's needs."
- "We should promote a non-military security framework for the region and end Canadian arms sales to Asian countries."
- "We should send no foreign aid to countries which don't address human rights."
- "We should refuse to do business in countries with illegal and corrupt regimes, such as Burma and Indonesia."
- "The Canadian government should encourage businesses to put a percentage of their profits into a community development project run by NGOs."
- "Maintain Canada's peacekeeping role. Continue trade, at the same time apply gentle pressure."

However, other respondents took more of a "Canada first" position, such as:

- "Seek economic equilibrium before fussing over human rights."
- "Canada's approach should be multi-faceted. We must avoid linkages which could cause collateral damage to Canada's interests."
- One respondent insisted we should first put our own house in order on human rights: "Canada must not impose its standards as a condition of trade. We need to look at the ethics of our own business practices. Canada needs to work on its own issues before championing human rights issues in other countries."

10. Preparing for relations with people in Asia

The eleventh question asked: *"What, if anything, should the Canadian government be doing, that it's not now doing, to prepare Canadian businesses and other organizations for relations with people in Asia?"*

The responses ranged from expressions of satisfaction with current government practices to suggestions for improving them.

- "The Canadian government is doing a good job. Team Canada is a good idea; continue with it. The government doesn't necessarily need to do more but business people have a responsibility to learn more about local business practices, customs, etc."
- "Canada should take more action to obtain international funding for Canadian-managed infrastructure projects in developing countries."
- "Private enterprise in Canada should have an international trading company/ies to bid for major projects on a turn-key basis."
- "Promote networks among Canadians and those in Asian countries other than the target countries."
- "There should be tax reduction incentives for exporters."
- "Create an international trading environment that provides a clear basis for developing relationships and future business."
- "Ensure that businesses are aware of the huge lead times to get relationships and projects off the ground in the region."
- "A strategy plan as to how our exports and joint ventures should evolve over the next 3-5 years."
- "Align all departments with a common purpose, vision and support for Canadian businesses."
- "Identify new strategic firms and back them for market entry."
- "Coordinate educational enterprise to make maximum use of our institutional resources."
- "Provide training and incentives for achieving the Canadian legacy."

- "More extensive introduction to the cultures of partner countries; more cultural sensitivity."
- "Canadian schools should teach young Canadians about business relations in other countries."
- "Canada should stick to and develop its own policies."
- "Canada needs to be more aggressive, facilitate communication."
- "The Canadian government should set an example for Asian countries with respect to democracy, freedom of speech, human rights and living standards."
- "Set up a formal process of dialogue re: trade and investment policies between government, business and civil society/ NGOs."
- "Depart from purely economic Team Canada model to one which encompasses the total relationship between Canada and Asia."
- "The Government of Canada should play a facilitating role by providing information, creating networks, coordinating its activities and consulting with civil society."
- "There should be limits on certain business practices: every project should be subject to a social impact assessment."
- "Provide incentives for those engaged in ecologically sustainable practices."
- "Labour law practices in Canada should apply automatically to Canadian subsidiaries in Asia."
- "Canada should treat all countries equally with regard to sanctions on human rights issues."
- "Create opportunities for Canadians to attend Asian schools."
- "Develop policies and protocols for businesses to adhere to in their business dealings."

11. Follow-up

About one-half of each of the two groups of respondents (business: 51%; non-business: 57%) indicated interest in receiving information about a proposed seminar as a follow-up activity.

About one-third (business: 30%; non-business: 34%) reported interest in participating in such a seminar.

Most respondents (business: 81%; non-business: 95%) wished to receive a copy of the findings of this study.

Very few declared no interest of any kind in follow-up action (business: 12%; non-business: 3%). This latter difference was statistically significant ($p < .07$).

III. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of the study was to contribute to a better understanding of how Canadians might encourage democratic governance and human rights in Asia.

The response rate was too low to generalize on the study population as a whole, and it permitted only limited statistical analysis of the data. Nevertheless, the data did indicate important similarities and differences between the views of business and non-business representatives.

Several business representatives recognized the obligation to address human security issues while conducting business in the area. And many non-business respondents acknowledged that political and economic feasibility considerations must be a part of strategies to advance their objectives.

The following recommendations, while partly based on the survey findings, reflect the considered views of the authors alone.

1. **Orientation of future Team Canada tours overseas should stress the importance of understanding the social and political, as well as the economic conditions in host countries.**

2. **Government policy should not place economic growth ahead of democratic practice and human rights. In most cases, the latter should be given primacy.**

3. **The Canadian government, businesses and civil society organizations who work in Asia, should emphasize non-military means to strengthen human security in Asia.** These include mechanisms and budgets for peacebuilding and

the resolution of violent conflicts in the region. This is consistent with the finding that 83% of business and 87% of non-business respondents agreed that the Asian Regional Forum should be urged to emphasize human security (Table 6).

4. **The Government of Canada should not trade with countries whose records on human rights have been censured by the United Nations.**
A majority of all respondents concurred with this: 55% of business and 58% of the non-business respondents (Table 4).

5. **Canadian businesses should establish, in cooperation with their Asian hosts, codes of ethical conduct to guide their business relations, in particular, freedom of association, the right to bargain collectively, environmental standards, and those prohibiting child or indentured labour.**

6. **Canada should decrease its military exports to Asia and should urge decreased levels of military spending by all Asian countries.**
This position was supported by 73% of the non-business, though only by 26% of business respondents. A question for a follow-up seminar: Why the discrepancy?

7. **The Canadian government, Canadian businesses and civil society organizations working in Asia should urge the UN to strengthen initiatives to control the production and distribution of heroin from Burma.** This was supported by 52% of the business and by 68% of the non-business respondents (Table 6).

8. **Canadian trade policy should recognize that trade restrictions based on environmental concerns are usually justified.** Eighty-four per cent of business and 98% of non-business respondents felt that such trade restrictions are always or sometimes justified. One reason given was "for the sake of the planet".

9. **Canadian economic relationships with Asian business partners should encompass considerations regarding the well-being of all segments of the host society.**

10. **This pilot study should provide the basis for a more comprehensive survey, using a mailed questionnaire, with the following qualifications:**
    - 10.1 Further elaboration of the study's objectives with input from the three main stakeholders: DFAIT, Canadian business representatives and Canadian civil society organizations involved in Asia.
    - 10.2 Use of the responses from the open-ended questions in this study to determine key variables for framing only close-ended questions in a followup study.
    - 10.3 Use of current documented methods in questionnaire construction and delivery in order to obtain a high percentage response rate.

Annex A: Questionnaire used in study

A QUESTIONNAIRE ADDRESSED TO TEAM CANADA PARTICIPANTS AND OTHER CANADIANS INVOLVED IN ASIAN COUNTRIES

We thank you for participating in this survey which is designed to be completed in about 20 minutes. Please answer the 12 questions of the questionnaire and return it in the enclosed envelope by August 1, 1997.

COUNTRY INFORMATION

1. ***Which countries in Asia did you visit during recent Team Canada missions, or in which countries is your organization currently involved?***

❑ China ❑ India ❑ Indonesia ❑ Malaysia

❑ Pakistan ❑ Philippines ❑ Singapore ❑ South Korea

❑ Thailand ❑ Other _____

2. ***Please circle the country or countries above in which you have, or expect to have, continuing business/working relations.***

SATISFACTION WITH THE TEAM CANADA MISSION (Answer only if you took part in Team Canada missions in 1996 and/or 1997)

3. ***Please indicate with the appropriate number, the degree of satisfaction or dissatisfaction you felt with different aspects of the trip:***

[1] = very satisfied **[2] = somewhat satisfied**
[3] = somewhat dissatisfied **[4] = very dissatisfied** **[N] = not applicable**

❑ Degree of financial success obtained, involving contracts agreed to or promised.

❑ New knowledge gained about business methods, technologies and relevant markets.

❑ New knowledge, insights concerning the economic conditions of the host country, such as jobs, housing, education and health.

❑ New understanding of the social and political conditions in the host countries, such as the legal system, democratic institutions or their lack, freedom of speech or otherwise.

❑ New personal friendships made with persons in host countries.

❑ Development of a network in Canada with others who participated in the Team Canada mission.

❑ Other (please specify):

_____

Comments:

_____

_____

TRADE BENEFITS AND LIMITATIONS

4. ***The following statements relate to benefits and possible limitations of trade between Canada and countries in Asia. Please indicate whether or not you:***

[1] = agree with the statement **[2] = agree somewhat**
[3] = disagree somewhat **[4] = disagree with the statement**

❑ Canada should trade with all countries, regardless of the social or political conditions in those countries.

❑ The more democratic the political institutions of a country, the more likely the poorest will share the benefits from trade.

❑ Canada should not trade with countries whose records on human rights have been censored by the United Nations.

❑ In the long run, trade strengthens both the economies of countries in Asia and the levels of human rights in them.

❑ Prior to establishing trade relations, Canada should first request that the country of one's trading partner endorse and abide by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

❑ Canada should not support economic sanctions against countries who repress the rights of their citizens.

CODES OF CONDUCT

Increasingly, codes of conduct - statements of principles agreed to voluntarily - are being established by Canadian businesses operating overseas. The following questions seek to determine to what extent business organizations represented on the Team Canada trips to Asia have, or are establishing, such codes.

5. ***Does your organization now have, or is it in the process of developing, a code of conduct for your overseas operations?***

❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Don't know ❑ Not applicable

5a. ***If yes, do your codes of conduct refer to any of the following:***

❑ Freedom of association?

❑ Right to bargain collectively?

❑ Seek to prohibit forced or indentured labour?

❑ Seek to eliminate child labour?

❑ Other (please specify):

_____

_____

Comments:

_____

_____

_____

Source: Craig Forcese, "Commerce with Conscience?", ICHRDD, 1997

SECURITY AND STABILITY

Asia exhibits both strong economic growth and a variety of threats to the security and stability of its three billion people. The region has more than 15 current border disputes, authoritarian regimes in more than half of its countries, a flourishing trade in illegal drugs and the fastest growing arms buildup in the world.

6. ***What steps, if any, should Canada take to improve the security and stability of the region, thereby enhancing the living standards of all of its people? Please check one or more of the following alternatives:***

❑ None; the security of Asia should be left entirely to the Asians themselves.

❑ Urge the ASEAN Regional Forum, a regional security organization of governments, established in 1994, to emphasize non-military means to strengthen human security, such as mechanisms for peacebuilding, conflict reduction and resolution.

❑ Decrease Canadian military exports to the region, and urge decreased levels of military spending by all countries in Asia.

❑ Maintain trade with all countries, regardless of internal security conditions within them.

❑ Strengthen United Nations initiatives to control the production and distribution of heroin from Burma, etc.

❑ Other steps:

_____

_____

THE ENVIRONMENT

Asia Pacific encompasses more than half the land and water mass of the earth. No other region has such an impact on the global environment. It is thus a key part of the region's human security. Long range economic development and trade with Asia will depend a great deal on the region's ability to maintain a healthy environment. Please indicate which of the following alternatives you favour:

7. ***Trade restrictions based on environmental concerns are***

❑ never justified ❑ sometimes justified ❑ always justified

7a. ***Why is that?***

_____

_____

_____

8. ***Prior to implementing a joint project in Asia, would your company seek an environmental impact assessment of that project, even if it were not required by the host government?***

❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Don't know ❑ Not applicable

8a. ***Why, or why not?***

_____

_____

_____

VALUES AND THE MODERNIZATION OF ASIA

There is an important debate in Asia today on whether political rights - including personal freedoms, rights of a fair trial, freedom of speech and assembly - should be curtailed in the interests of economic growth. Examples of three different options concerning values and the modernization of Asia are given below.

Option A: **Primacy of economic growth, respect for hierarchy:**

- *Former Prime Minister Lee Kwan Yew of Singapore*: "Develop the economy first, then worry about so-called luxuries like democracy and freedom."
- *Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed of Malaysia*: "Human rights in Asia consist (primarily) of food, shelter and work."

Option B: **Primacy of democratic practice & human rights:**

- *South Korea's Kim Dae-jung*: "Asia should lose no time in firmly establishing democracy and strengthening human rights."
- *Indonesia's Megawati Sukarnoputri (Leader of the Indonesian Democratic Party)*: "Indonesia should be a country based on the rule of law, not might. Democracy, human rights and living standards, these will be central to the 21st Century."

Option C: **Both economic growth and human rights are equally essential for Asia today.**

9. Given the conditions which you have experienced in Asia, which of these options should be given priority by Asian governments today?

❑ Option A ❑ Option B ❑ Option C

9a. Why do you say that?

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Source: Errol Mendes, "Canada, Asian Values and Human Rights: Helping the Tigers to Set Themselves Free", University of Ottawa, 1997

10. ***Many industrial countries are seeking trade relations with Asia. Each takes a certain stance. What, in your view, should be the special Canadian legacy to Asia that distinguishes Canada from other non-Asian industrial countries?***

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11. ***What, if anything, should the Canadian government be doing, that it's not now doing, to prepare Canadian businesses and other organizations for their relations with people in Asia?***

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FOLLOW UP

The above questions assume the value of continuing trade between Canada and countries in Asia. It is also assumed that questions of priorities, security, stability and the environment are relevant to the process of trade with Asia. Should there be sufficient interest, a follow up seminar to examine these issues in the context of the survey results will be held in October or November.

12. ***Please indicate whether you would be interested in any of the following options:***

❑ Receiving information about the proposed seminar

❑ Participating in the seminar

❑ Receiving a copy of the findings from this survey

❑ Other (please specify):

_____

_____

_____

12a. ❑ **No, I am not interested in further follow ups.**

Your Name & Title_____

Name of Business or Organization_____

Phone _____ **Fax** _____

Email _____

Thank you very much for completing this survey. Please return in the enclosed envelope by August 1 to:

Murray Thomson
ICAE - Peacefund Canada
206 - 145 Spruce Street
Ottawa, ON K1R 6P1

Tel: (613) 230-0860; Fax: (613) 563-0017
Email: pfcan@web.net

Annex B: Participating businesses and organizations

1. Advanced Material Resources Ltd.
2. Agra International Ltd.
3. Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
4. Alcatel Canada Wire
5. Alternative Fuel Systems Inc.
6. Anglican Church of Canada
7. Atlantic School of Theology, United Church of Canada
8. Beck Robinson & Co.
9. Bristol Aerospace Ltd.
10. CAE Inc.
11. Canada Asia Working Group
12. Canada World Youth
13. Canadian Council for International Cooperation
14. Canadian Friends Service Committee
15. Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace
16. Canadian Human Rights Foundation
17. Canadian Auto Workers (Social Justice Fund)
18. Canadian Friends of Burma
19. Canadian Cooperative Association
20. Canadian Public Health Association
21. Canadian Environment Industry Association
22. Canbest Ltd.
23. CE Mayo International
24. Centre canadien d'étude et coopération internationale
25. Chromacolour International Ltd.
26. Communications, Energy and Paperworkers' Union of Canada (Humanity Fund)
27. Congrégation de Sainte-Croix
28. Cougar Helicopters Inc.
29. CUSO
30. Dantec Electronics Ltd.
31. Democracy China-Ottawa
32. Detac Corporation
33. East Timor Alert Network
34. End the Arms Race
35. EPU Canada
36. Eton International Ltd.
37. Ezeflow Inc.
38. Geomatics Canada
39. GL & U Inc.
40. Grande Forces Inc.
41. Greater Victoria School District
42. Heiwa Business International
43. Holland College

44. Hygaard Fine Foods Ltd.
45. Inter Pares
46. International Institute for Sustainable Development
47. International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development
48. J.P. Environmental Products, Inc.
49. Kinesys Pharmaceutical Inc.
50. Le Groupe Novatech, Inc.
51. Les Produits Fraco Ltee.
52. Manitoba Hydro
53. Marubeni Canada Ltd.
54. Medcomsoft Inc.
55. Mennonite Central Committee
56. MPB Technologies Inc.
57. Natural Resources Canada
58. Navigation Aeronav International
59. NLK Consultants Inc.
60. Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
61. Olymel
62. Oxfam Canada
63. Pacific Exotic Foods Inc.
64. Pacific Campaign for Disarmament and Security
65. Parliamentarians for East Timor
66. Philippine Development Assistance Program
67. Queen's University
68. Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton
69. Reid Crowther International
70. Ressources Kitaskino XXI
71. Saskatchewan Trade & Export Partnership
72. Simon Fraser University
73. South Asia Partnership
74. Southern Alberta Cubeni Inc.
75. Sydney Steel Corp.
76. Sypher-Mueller International, Inc.
77. Tradestrat Inc.
78. Trico Marketing Services Inc.
79. Turtle Island Earth Stewards
80. Unitarian Service Committee of Canada
81. Unitec International Controls Corp.
82. United Steelworkers (Humanity Fund)
83. World University Service of Canada
84. Anonymous
85. Anonymous
86. Anonymous